

march 2013
volume 49, number 3



mind

Mensa Newsletter
Of Central Indiana



Happy Saint Patrick's Day!

Publishing Statement

Central Indiana Mensa, a Local Group of American Mensa, Ltd., publishes *MIND* monthly. Mensa is a not-for-profit organization open to all persons scoring in the 98th percentile on a standardized intelligence test. Mensa neither endorses nor opposes the opinions published in *MIND*, which are those of the individual contributors.

Contribution Guidelines

MIND contributions may be sent to mind.editor@yahoo.com, or Teresa Gregory, 75 N Whittier Place, Indianapolis, IN, 46219, or delivered to Teresa Gregory or Jan Pfeil Doyle at the monthly meeting.

Contributions may be edited for length or to remove offensive material, must be “family friendly”, and may not include personal attacks. No anonymous contributions will be published, but the Editor will withhold the author’s name from the public on request. Contributions should be in hand no later than the monthly meeting preceding the month of publication.

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***MIND* Staff**

Editor: Teresa Gregory

mind.editor@yahoo.com, (317) 430-1761

75 N Whittier Place, Indianapolis, IN 46219

Calendar Editor: David Culp, dbculp@sbcglobal.net

Publisher: Jan Pfeil Doyle

MIND is published monthly by Central Indiana Mensa.

Subscriptions are \$12 annually for those not members of CIM.

Postmaster: address changes to *MIND*, c/o American Mensa, Ltd, 1229 Corporate Drive West, Arlington, TX 76006-6103. Include membership number.

Website: centralindiana.us.mensa.org

-or- www.indymensa.org

MensaPhone: (317) 539-1740

Volume 49, Issue Number 3, March 2013



mind

table of contents

| | |
|---|----|
| Old Dog/New Tricks | 4 |
| LocSection..... | 5 |
| CIM Family Program: Game Night..... | 6 |
| CIM Family Program: Smart Art..... | 7 |
| We Survived! The 2013 Regional Gathering..... | 8 |
| Welcome New and Reinstating Members..... | 10 |
| Calling All CultureQuesters! | 10 |
| March, 2013, Events..... | 11 |
| Within Your Ken | 15 |
| A Modest Proposal | 16 |
| Ex-Com Minutes | 17 |
| Damnations 26 RG Announcement | 18 |
| Challenge..... | 19 |
| Books on the Runway..... | 20 |
| Location of CIM Monthly Meeting | 22 |
| Contact Information..... | 23 |

Old Dog/New Tricks

Teresa Gregory, Editor

The first day of spring is in sight, and that marks my first anniversary with “Mr. Right.” Yes, it’s been a year since I had my right knee replacement surgery. Sadly, like a lot of relationships, I often forget he’s there. But in this case, it’s a good thing. Before the surgery, I was VERY aware of him.



It’s also the month of St Paddy’s Day. I hope you enjoy the picture of my son on the cover this month. His ad agency in Los Angeles needed someone to play a leprechaun in a photo shoot last year, and he got the job. He did have to agree to shave off his mustache. He’s not a small man, but with Photoshop he was quite convincing.

Last month, I talked about the loss of serendipity and how to get it back by reading a real publication. I mentioned that I subscribe to a daily newspaper and three magazines. (Clarification: *Fast Company* is not the same as *High Times* as one member thought.)

While reading the February issue of *Psychology Today*, I saw an article titled, “Old Dog, New Tricks.” (What a catchy title!) The subtitle was, “Can People Change? Or Are Some Parts of Us Set In Stone?” It contained thoughts from six *PT* bloggers on how the brain is constantly changing due to our day to day experiences. Thoughts and attitudes can change. It might take some work, but it can be done. No dog is too old.

This seemed to pair nicely with another short article titled, “Take the Money and Run: Why splurging on the honeymoon instead of the dress is tied to greater happiness.” This article explains what is becoming common knowledge now that experiences generally have more value on the happiness scale than material possessions. As people are looking at downsizing and simpler living, memories are the one thing that you can hoard and not run out of storage space.

My personal thought is that everyone should have a secret memory that makes them smile whenever it’s taken out of its special place, a smile that’s more of a twinkle in the eye than a grin on the lips. If you don’t have one, maybe it’s time you created a secret memory for yourself. It’s never too late.

LocSection

Jan Pfeil Doyle

It's that time of year – membership renewal time. If you're not a life member, your dues are due March 31st. You should have received a bill last month; you can pay online or by mail. I hope you'll all be renewing!



Speaking of March 31st deadlines, that's the deadline for sending in our CultureQuest team. CultureQuest is an international Mensa quiz competition. Questions range from film to politics, from literature to geography, from music to history and farther afield. Teams of up to five people compete at the same time on April 28th. There's also a "Next Generation" quiz for teams whose members were born after April 29, 1995. For the Next Generation team, only the team captain must be a current Mensa member. If you're interested in being on a team, please contact me well before Mar. 31st at jan@mw.net or 317-431-3500.

If you were at our Regional Gathering, you already know what a wonderful time we had! It was great to see old friends and make some new ones. RG Chair **Teresa Gregory** put on a great spread in hospitality, arranged entertaining and interesting programs, and so much more! Our thanks to you once again, Teresa! Thanks also go to Registrar **Cyndi Kuyper**, drinks "skipper" **Greg Crawford**, **Karen Zwick**, **Mindy Grayson**, **Matt Zwick**, **Elise Davidson**, **Virginia Plottel**, **Karen Steilberger**, **Barbara George**, **Alison Brown**, **Leo Doyle**, and everyone else who contributed!

Thanks are also due to local Scholarship Chair, **Laurel Richardson**, and her committee, **Alison Brown**, **Jud Horning**, and **Sarah Wright** for reviewing applicants' essays and deciding which applications to send on to the regional level.

Our annual camping weekend, the Outdoor Gathering, is coming up May 17-19, at the Versailles (Indiana) State Park. We rent the group camp there and stay in dormitory-style cabins. There's a central building where we hang out, play games, and cook our own meals. We always need volunteers, so if you're interested in helping out, please let me know.

CIM Family Program: Game Night

Devin Lee

January's inaugural Game Night event at Todd Academy was another success for the Central Indiana Mensa Family Program. Approximately



18 people attended, and games were enjoyed by young and the young at heart!



A new family attended and enjoyed meeting other parents of smart kids, and the shared experiences these unique kiddos provide us. In addition to the newcomer, we had many regular faces, and a family joining us after experiencing the success of Smart Science last semester.

We are certainly growing and getting the word out about what Mensa has to offer parents and children!



[Photos courtesy Devin Lee]

Upcoming Events:

Mar 15 Game Night at Todd Academy

Apr (TBD) Smart Science with Julie Tennell at Franklin High School

May 17-18 CIM Outdoor Gathering in Vincennes

Check out www.indymensa.org for the calendar of all events.

CIM Family Program: Smart Art

On Friday, February 15th, 55 people gathered at Todd Academy for our first ever Smart Art event. **Abby Wolf**, the Todd Academy art teacher, created three fantastic Smart Art stations for students to explore. Thanks to Abby Wolf, **Dolly Hayde**, **Jake Wolf**, and **David Bonner** for their assistance in supervising the event.

Station 1. Matisse Monsters: Paper Collage



Station 2. Identity in Imagination: Oil Pastels and Watercolors



Station 3. Creature Creation: Drawing and Modeling Clay



[Photos courtesy David Bonner]

For more information on this and the first Youth Committee meeting, read the Blog at kids.indymensa.org.

We Survived! The 2013 Regional Gathering

The weekend of January 25, Central Indiana Mensa hosted 69 guests at our Regional Gathering.

It just wouldn't be an RG without at least one table of card players. There were plenty of other tables for the folks who just wanted to socialize. Drinks and snacks were always available.



There were speakers and programs. **Carl Levinson** shared his vision of what the future could be. **Leo Doyle** told us how to use public domain to make money. His Power Point presentation had the group's full attention.



Under the watchful eye of the professionals from **ComedySportz**, the group got to exercise their funny bones with some improv.



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Five years ago, **Bruce Parker** from Eli Lilly did a presentation called Chemistry is a Blast. He graciously agreed to come do it again this year. It was a blast!



One of our favorite annual events is the talent show. This year we had standup comedy from several people and even an impromptu dance. **Teresa Fisher** was our host and first act.



The **Indy Pride Bag Ladies** were in the building at a charity fundraiser, and we snagged them for a few songs. They were a crowd pleaser!



[RG Photos courtesy John Blankenship]

Welcome!

New Members

| | |
|------------------|-----------------|
| Joseph Basile | Avon, IN |
| Joseph E Crafton | Spottsville, KY |
| Mathew Foley | Westfield, IN |

Reinstating Members

| | |
|----------------------|------------------|
| Dave Appel | Indianapolis, IN |
| Derek B Crager | Camby, IN |
| Shamus J Driver | Markleville, IN |
| Jason E Gavin | Bloomington, IN |
| Bernard David Hirsch | Carmel, IN |
| Kenneth G McKee | Franklin, IN |
| Francis Pianki | Anderson, IN |
| Cynthia Schamel | Indianapolis, IN |
| John Thomas Trinkle | Indianapolis, IN |
| Nathan Walker | Loogootee, IN |

Members Moving In

| | |
|--------------------------|------------------|
| Jacqueline Newell Gibson | Indianapolis, IN |
| Richard B Gibson | Indianapolis, IN |
| Dennis L Gilliland | Seymour, IN |
| Kelly Nelsen | Owensburg, IN |

Calling all CultureQuesters!

The date for CultureQuest this year is Sunday, April 28. If you aren't familiar with this yearly event, here is what the national website says:

Nearly 100 teams from the U.S. and Canada sit for this 90-minute test of cultural knowledge at exactly the same time on the same day across the nation, and the top 20 teams receive cash awards. Mensans write new questions every year specifically for Mensa's use; topics range from politics to science and from entertainment to current events.

Teams comprise up to five Mensa members. The deadline for entry is March 31, so if you are interested, please contact Jan Pfeil Doyle (jan@mw.net or 317-431-3500) by March 30.

March 2013 Events - Central Indiana Mensa

Ham 'n' Eggs (Hamilton County Eggheads) 1st Saturday from 10:00 am-12:00 noon. Soho Café & Gallery, 620 South Range Line Road, Carmel, IN Drop in any time for casual conversation, lively discussion, and good food and beverages. Contact: **Alison Brown**, 317-846-6798, SIGHT@indymensa.org.

Muncie Area Group Meeting – 1st Saturday at 2:00 p.m.
The MTCup, 1610 W. University Ave in Muncie. For those familiar with the Ball State area, it's in the Village.
Contact: **Jason Smith**, munciemensa@gmail.com

Indy Lunch Bunch - 1st and 3rd Wednesdays at 12:00 noon, Double Eagle Café, 650 N. Meridian (at the Scottish Rite Cathedral), Indianapolis.
Contact: **Alan Schmidt**, 317-233-5190, alan.schmidt@att.net

West Lafayette/Lafayette Lunch – 1st Wednesday, 12:00 noon.
Contact: **Joe Stamper**, 765-474-4759, jstamper@aii.edu

Book Discussion
Sunday, 3/3, 2:00 p.m.: Leo and Jan Pfeil Doyle's home on the northeast side of Indianapolis. We'll be discussing *Team of Rivals: The political genius of Abraham Lincoln*, by Doris Kearns Goodwin. Contact **Jan Pfeil Doyle**, 317-431-3500, or jan@mw.net for directions. RSVPs appreciated.

Mensans Dining Out
Contact: **Bob Zdanky**, 317-503-0091 or Zdanky@gmail.com
Sunday, 3/3, 5:00 p.m. Sam's Gyros, 8922 E. 96th St., Fishers

Monthly Gathering – 2nd Friday at 7:00 p.m., All Souls Unitarian Church, 5805 E. 56th St. See last page of MIND for map and directions.
Members: \$5.00, Non-Members: \$7.00; Children 6-12: \$3.00, under 6: free
03/08: Travis DiNicola an erstwhile Mensan and Executive Director of IndyReads will speak about "Making Indianapolis 100% Literate". Come listen to a good talk, engage in spirited debate, play games. Drinks and snacks provided.

Kokomo Breakfast – 2nd and 4th Saturdays at 10:00 a.m.
Richard's Restaurant, east of Highway 31, 2 blocks north of Center
Contact: **Patricia Sottong**, (765) 457-0754; leave message.

(Events are continued on the other side of the calendar.)

March 2013

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday |
|---|-----------------|-------------------------------------|---|
| | | | |
| 3 Book Discussion Group; Mensans Dining Out | 4 | 5 | 6 Indy Lunch Bunch; W. Lafayette Lunch |
| 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 |
| 17 | 18 | 19 Paducah Area Group Meeting | 20 Indy Lunch Bunch |
| 24 | 25 | 26 MINDbending/ ExCom | 27 |
| 31 | April 2013 1 | 2 | 3 Indy Lunch Bunch; W. Lafayette Lunch |
| 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 |

| Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|----------|---|---|
| | 1 | 2 Ham 'n' Eggs; Muncie Meeting |
| 7 | 8 Monthly Gathering | 9 Kokomo Breakfast |
| 14 | 15 MIND deadline; Family Game Night | 16 Calendar Deadline |
| 21 | 22 | 23 Kokomo Breakfast; Esoteric SIG |
| 28 | 29 | 30 |
| 4 | 5 | 6 Ham 'n' Eggs; Muncie Meeting |
| 11 | 12 Monthly Gathering | 13 Kokomo Breakfast; Mensa Test |

If you lose your MIND (oh, my!) or want additional information, check www.indymensa.org or join our Meetup group, <http://www.meetup.com/central-indiana-mensa>. Meetup is free to join and you will get reminders of upcoming events. It's a great way to stay in the loop.

March 2013 Events (cont.)

Family Game Night – Friday, March 15th, 6:45 pm. Todd Academy, 855 N. East St., Indianapolis, IN 46202 This is a Mensa Family Event.

Esoteric SIG - Sat., March 23, 1 p.m., Indianapolis Museum of Art. We will meet in the Nourish Café for lunch or a snack, then (about 2 p.m.), go on to: “One Thing Leads to Another” by artist Tamar Ettun, a working installation and multi-media performance, inside an overturned hot air balloon. Free! **Petra Ritchie**, 786-8665, petraritchie@msn.com

Paducah Area Group Meeting – 3rd Tuesday of every month, 7:00 p.m. Anyone in the area is welcome to join fellow Mensans for dinner. For location and more information on this group, contact **Charles Rawlings**, rawlings@siu.edu

MINDBending/ExCom – Last or next-to-last Tuesday of the month. MINDBending is the preparation of next month’s MIND for mailing. Come help with sealing, labeling, and stamping the MINDs.

3/26, 5:30 p.m. Contact: **Jan Pfeil Doyle**, 431-3500.

Pizza and soft drinks provided.

MINDBending is held at the offices of Midwest Internet, 5348 N. Tacoma Ave., which is 1 block east and 1 block north of 52nd St. and Keystone Ave. on the northeast side of Indianapolis.



A **Big Thank You** to all the January MINDbenders and thanks to Midwest Internet for hosting the event.

Upcoming Events

Mensa Test Saturday, April 13th. Registration: 10 am. Test: 11 am. Wayne Library, 198 South Girls School Road Contact **Steve Merchant** at 317-240-3077 or blazingstar32@hotmail.com for more information.

For last minute changes to events check the Central Indiana Mensa group on Meetup.com. <http://www.meetup.com/central-indiana-mensa>

April MIND calendar items due 3/16/13 to dbculp@sbcglobal.net.

Within Your Ken

Ken Silver, RVC4

The last weekend of January I was in Indianapolis for Central Indiana's RG. Being so close to Ohio and Region 3, this is more like a typical Region 3 RG, with great homemade hospitality and a lot of card playing. I'm saying this with fondness, not criticism. The programming they had was very entertaining, especially "Having a Blast with Chemistry" a program sponsored by Eli Lilly, a local company. There was no opportunity to get dressed up; this was more about socializing, and catching up with old friends.



Sometime during the weekend, it struck me that this would be my last trip there as RVC, and I would rarely if ever make this event again. RVCs have a travel budget for events like this, but without it you wouldn't drive from Minnesota to Indianapolis in January, unless it was an emergency. Fortunately this group has an even less formal Outdoor RG at a state park in May. Driving then is usually a pleasure, especially when I have a stopover to see my older daughter in suburban Chicago. So all is not lost!!

I've been RVC for three terms, almost six years. It remains a task that I love doing, but it's time to step aside and give someone else a chance. For those of you that haven't seen a ballot for the upcoming election, it's no news that **Ellen Voie** will be taking my place as RVC. I know she's better prepared than I was, I hope she loves the job as much as I have. I also hope very much not to be retiring from the leadership of Mensa, but moving on to a new position, as I'm running for Second Vice Chair.

Even if I'm fortunate enough to continue with my Mensa career, I can't imagine enjoying any office more than this one.

Ken

[Editor's Note: Ken did seem to enjoy himself at the RG-see picture.]

A Modest Proposal

Joanne R. Ortman

Contributions to MERF encourage beneficiaries to enroll in college and join the ranks of the overqualified in already crowded professions. Is this wise? I think it is time to look for a new cause, and I have one to consider.

Many Mensans have difficulty in the work place, putting up with rampant stupidity, boring routines, and incompetent supervisors. As a result they are often unemployed or underemployed and drift through a structureless life. With proper conditions many of these Mensans and others in the top 2% could be gainfully employed.

I am proposing sheltered workshops for Mensans. We already have sheltered workshops for those with lower intelligence. At the Mensa sheltered workshops, Mensans could have jobs to go to each day providing them with a reason to get up and dress up, a certain amount of social contact, and a modest stipend to spend as they see fit, or save it for the day they move into the Mensa retirement community which I hope someone else is busy planning, (I can't do everything.)

Typical tasks in the Mensa sheltered workshops might include essay writing, problem solving, or research projects. Supervisory tasks could be rotated among the participants so for once Mensans could be supervised by their peers.

Subcontracting could cover part of the costs of the Mensa sheltered workshops. Subcontractors might include mainstream students with an active social life who don't have time for a lot of math problems or essays. I'm sure there would be others, but I can't think of any right this minute. The remaining costs could come from donations currently going to less worthy causes.

I say let's get moving on this.

Central Indiana Mensa ExCom Minutes 12/18/12

The regular monthly meeting of the Central Indiana Mensa ExCom was held at Midwest Internet on Tuesday, Dec. 18, 2012.

LocSec **Jan Pfeil Doyle** called the meeting to order at 7:35 p.m. Members present included: **Dave Culp**, Jan Pfeil Doyle, **Teresa Gregory**, **Jean Rodgers**, **Alan Schmidt**, **Karen Steilberger**, **Karen Wilczewski**, and **Bob Zdanky**. Absent: **Ann Hake** and **Karen Zwick**. Guest: **Petra Ritchie**.

The minutes of the November ExCom meeting were reviewed and corrected. The amended minutes were accepted. The motion was made by Dave Culp, seconded by Karen Wilczewski, and carried.

Alan Schmidt presented the Treasurer's report, which showed the balance as of 12/18/2012 to be \$22,206,70. An anonymous donation of \$1000 for dues for youth members does not cover all dues for current youth members. Teresa Gregory made a motion that the shortfall be made up from the general fund. Bob Zdanky seconded the motion, and the motion was carried. Karen Wilczewski moved that the treasurer's report be accepted, Jean Rodgers seconded the motion, and the motion was carried.

The membership report shows 3 new members, 2 reinstating members, 1 renewing member, 1 move-in member, 5 offers of membership, and 21 prospects.

Old Business

Monthly Meeting Location: Jan Pfeil Doyle reported that there are no updates on the Todd Academy.

Bob Zdanky reported that the next New Member Dinner will be on February 17 at Four Seasons, which is on the east side of Indianapolis.

RG: Teresa Gregory has created a Facebook page for the RG and is adding to it. She has talked with Ann Hake about putting the registration information on our Web site. Teresa can use help with preparing the programs. Jan will provide a Word document that will help. Possibly the programs could be printed along with the MIND. Bob will put a notice about the RG on the Meetup page.

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New Business

Publicity: Karen Wilczewski will meet with Teresa Gregory to discuss ideas.

There being no other business, Dave Culp made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Teresa Gregory seconded the motion. The motion carried, and the meeting was adjourned at 8:16 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Karen Steilberger



Dayton Area Mensa Presents
DAMNATIONS 26
MARCH 22-24, 2013

Triskaideka
Times
Two

| | |
|-------------------|------------------|
| Wyndham Garden | Checks to Dayton |
| Dayton South | Mensa RG |
| 31 Prestige Plaza | \$70 weekend |
| Dr. | Friday \$20, |
| Miamisburg OH | Saturday \$45 |
| 45432 | Saturday night |
| (937) 434-8030 - | \$25 |
| ask for Mensa | Kids 5-16 are ½ |
| rate | price. |
| \$83/night + tax | |
| by 3-9 | |

Challenge

Teresa Fisher

I'm writing this at the start of Lent, and while I participate in no religious activities, I do think it's good to take stock every once in a while. What better time than the end of winter? Spring is the time to make a new beginning, not January 1.

The challenge I am throwing out is for you to consider things you've done in the past year (or so) that might not look good in a life-review evaluation. Is there something you might do differently if you had it to do again? Come on; we've all done something we're not proud of. Fess 'up. Confession is good for the soul.

I'll start.

Last Thanksgiving I denied a place at my dining room table to a Native American.

There. Bottom that. I hope I haven't killed the challenge with an admission no one wants to compete with.

[Editor's Note: Well, you did set the bar pretty low. If anyone is up for the challenge, you may send in your "confession" and I will withhold your name upon request.]



**Don't forget to renew your membership by
March 31, 2013. You can renew online or by
mail.**

Books on the Runway

Alison Brown

This is the title of an offering at the “We Survived!” RG. However, it was an event that required preparation from a dozen or so participants and only one actually came prepared. Another prepared on the spot. That being the case, we hope to try the program as conceived next year with better PR and access to the necessary forms. As it was, quite a group of Mensans showed up to talk books, which we did.

After hearing about the books on offer, we just discussed books we liked. One title led to another: *The Lord of the Rings* came up, *Canticle for Liebowitz*, *On the Beach* ... One member of the group made suggestions on how to choose books to read, based on the experience of his wife’s book club. It seemed to be the process by which the CIM Book Club decides upon its next selection as well, so I need not recapitulate it here.

The idea of “Books on the Runway” is to have participants give a snappy presentation on a book they would like their fellow Mensans to read (or that they think their fellow Mensans would like to read...). The book reviewed should verbally strut down the runway, like a model sashaying in a fancy dress, pivot a couple of times at the end of the walk to show the item from all sides and then vanish into the wings, making room for the next model. The concept comes from Germany, where it is called *Bücherschaulaufen*. *Schaulaufen* is that popular program which gold and silver medalists in figure skating perform after the contest to show what they can do once freed from the constraints of their competitive programs full of required figures, jumps and turns – each being scored by meticulous judges. The carefree abandon and *joie de vivre* condensed into 3 minutes of the *Schaulaufen* is what a book lover should have when presenting his/her beloved book in the same amount of time.

In order that the presenter can gather his/her thoughts in a compact manner, a very short questionnaire is requested for each prospective presentation. In Germany this has worked very well and more presentations are submitted than there is time for in a one hour session – must be that German discipline, extant even among Mensans.

This is a completed questionnaire as demonstrated by the creator of *Bücherschaulaufen*:

Continued on next page

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| | |
|-------------------|--|
| <i>Author:</i> | Nicholas Ostler |
| <i>Title:</i> | <i>Empires of the Word</i> |
| <i>Subtitle:</i> | <i>A Language History of the World</i> |
| <i>Publisher:</i> | Harper Perennial |
| <i>Year:</i> | 2006 |
| <i>Pages:</i> | 640 |
| <i>Price:</i> | c. \$12 |
| <i>ISBN-13:</i> | 978-0-06-093572-6 |

Has been read by: Michael Fackler, Germany

Book description (max. 5 sentences): This exciting book tells how great empires spread languages – often their own, sometimes a different one, sometimes none – and why once the empire disappears in some cases the language remains while in other cases it does not. Detailed examples comprise all regions of the world and the past 5000 years.

Has this book changed the way you think? your attitude towards life? even your life itself? If so, how? I learned how small the gap between permanent and transitory achievements is, and how many of our cultural roots stem from very far away in space and time.

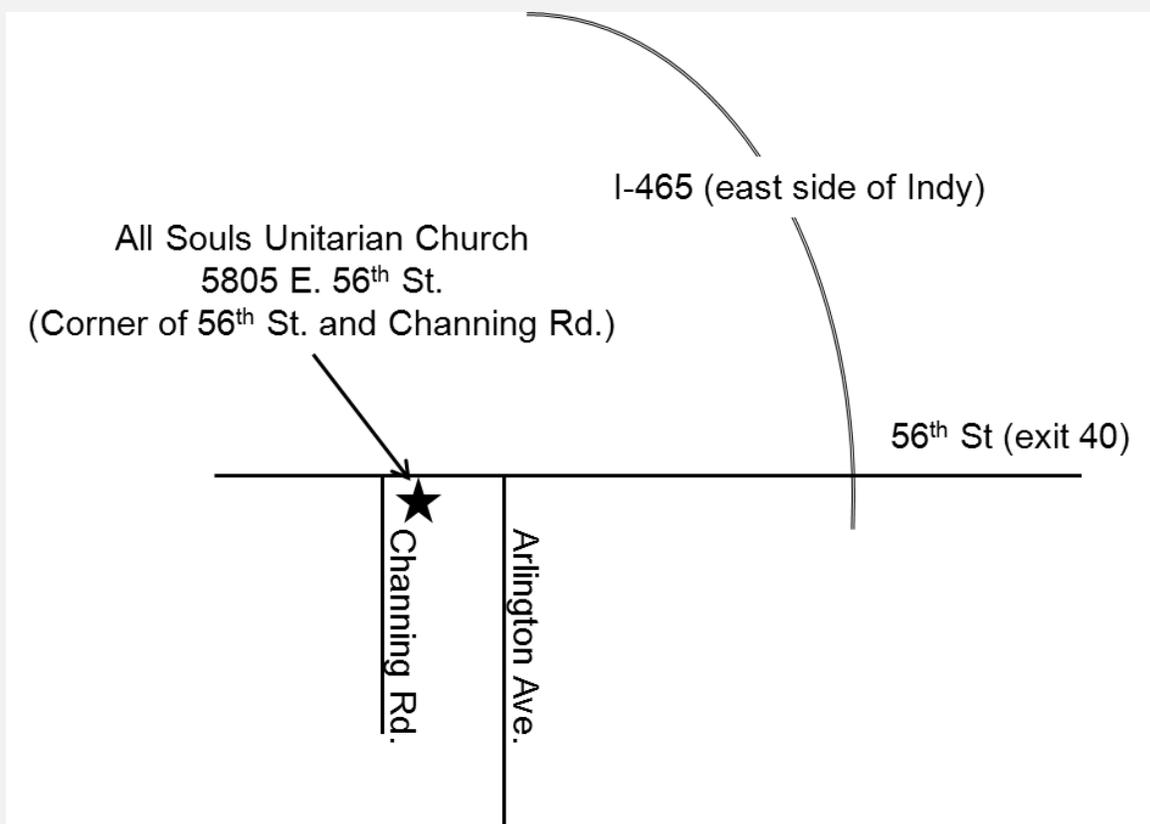
Who should definitely read this book? Why? Everyone interested in languages and cultures. Everyone interested in the ancient world and in non-European history.

How long might it take to read the book? A week during vacation, longer if interrupted. There is so much content in the book that one should not rush through it.

Provide a short characteristic section, an awesome sentence, or an inspiring quote: The language history of the world □...□ also offers some broad hints for the future. Asked in 1898 to choose a single defining event in recent history, the German chancellor Bismarck replied, “North America speaks English“. He was right, as the twentieth century showed.

Additional remarks: none

After reading this – short, sweet and to the point – you may want to pick up *Empires of the Word* to read yourself. Or you might decide that you, too, have a book that you want to present in this way. You don't have to wait until our next RG. Submit your own reading suggestions for Mensans to the editor of the *MIND* through out the coming year. Using the documentation of the questionnaires, we will start in April with the books which bopped along the runway at the RG in 2013 and “survived”.



Mensa Monthly Gathering Location

All Souls Unitarian Church, The Beattie Room,
5805 E. 56th St., Indianapolis

- From I-465 on the east side of Indianapolis, take the 56th St exit west (exit 40).
- Turn left on Channing Rd (1.2 miles from the I-465 exit).
- The church parking lot is on your left.
- Go to the Beattie Room.



Region 4 RVC

Ken Silver

RVC4@us.mensa.org, (651) 686-0934
1474 Blackhawk Lake Dr, Eagan, MN 55122

Central Indiana Mensa Executive Committee (ExCom)

| | |
|----------------------|---|
| Local Secretary | Jan Pfeil Doyle, jan@mw.net, (317) 431-3500 PO Box 20158, Indianapolis, 46220 |
| Vice Local Sec | Jean E. Rodgers, jeanerodgers@yahoo.com |
| Recorder | Karen Steilberger, sbeilbe@sbcglobal.net |
| Editor | Teresa Gregory, mind.editor@yahoo.com, (317) 430-1761 75 N Whittier Place, Indianapolis, IN 46219 |
| Calendar Editor | David Culp, dbculp@sbcglobal.net |
| Program Coordinator | Ann Hake, amhake@yahoo.com |
| Membership Treasurer | Bob Zdanky, zdanky@gmail.com, (317) 503-0091 Karen Zwick, mind.editor@yahoo.com, (317) 626-3789 1634 Mace Dr., Indianapolis, IN 46229 |
| Publicity | Karen Wilczewski, biltmore@topdogcom.com, (317) 849-9022 |

Area Coordinators

| | |
|-------------|---|
| Bloomington | Nan Harvey, NanHarvey@gmail.com, (812) 345-9608 708 S Cory Lane, Lot 61, Bloomington, IN 47403 |
| Evansville | Dr. Louis Cady, lcadynd@mac.com, (812) 429-0772 |
| Kokomo | Ken Kleist, (765) 457-6975, POB 88 Kokomo, IN 46903 |
| Lafayette | Joe Stamper, joe_stamper@comcast.net, (765) 474-4759 |
| Muncie | Jason Smith, munciemensa@gmail.com 2601 S. Mitchell Ct., Muncie, IN 47302 |

Other Volunteers

| | |
|-----------------------|--|
| Bridge SIG | OPEN |
| Ham 'n Eggs | Alison Brown, SIGHT@indymensa.org |
| Gifted Children | David Bonner, gcc@kids.indymensa.org, (317) 973-0258 6279 Canterbury Dr, Zionsville, IN 46077 |
| Ass't Gifted Children | Laurel Richardson, Lhabitat@aol.com, (317) 244-0000 654 Phaeton Place, Indianapolis, IN 46227 |
| SIGHT Coordinator | Alison Brown, SIGHT@indymensa.org |
| Proctor Coordinator | Steve Merchant, blazingstar32@hotmail.com, (317) 240-3077 2234 Fullerton Circle, Indianapolis, IN 46214 |
| Ombudsman | Dr. Alan Schmidt, alan.schmidt@att.net, (317) 695-5741 |
| Esoteric SIG | Petra Ritchie, (317)786-8665, petraritchie@msn.com. |

American Mensa, Ltd.
1229 Corporate Drive West
Arlington Texas 76006-6103

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Stamp

Address Label